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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

LETTER DATED 22 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I am instructed to acknowledge your letter dated 14 May 1998 addressed to the Prime Minister following the Indian nuclear tests.

The Government of Pakistan believes that the Indian nuclear tests have dealt a devastating blow to global non-proliferation efforts and have also gravely jeopardized international peace and security. Overt nuclear weaponization by India has destabilized our region and poses an immediate and direct threat to Pakistan's security.

The Indian Government has threatened the use of nuclear weapons and is now issuing provocative statements exhibiting, unabashedly, its aggressive intentions against Pakistan.

Tension in Kashmir has reached alarming proportions. The frequency and intensity of Indian violations of the Line of Control is increasing.

Unfortunately, the presidential statement issued by the Security Council on 14 May 1998 (S/PRST/1998/12) failed to effectively address the security dimensions of the problem.

Pakistan has exercised restraint in its response to India's provocative actions. However, we cannot ignore the threat to our national security and the requirements of self-defence. We will be obliged to respond to these requirements.

In view of the real dangers posed to our security by Indian actions and the threat of the use of force, including nuclear weapons, the question of adhering to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is only of academic value.

We are gratified that you are following these developments closely and will take the necessary steps to maintain peace and security in our region. Pakistan trusts that, in accordance with Article 99 of the Charter of the United Nations, you will take all possible steps to defuse these rising tensions, forestall further Indian adventurism and restore tranquillity and stability in our region.

Today, not only is Pakistan confronted by a threat to its security from an aggressive and hegemonic neighbour; the fundamental principles and purposes of the Charter are being challenged by India.

I have the honour to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 10 and 81, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmad KAMAL
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative